

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1414

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By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, petition of William M. Straus relative to kayak safety measures. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO KAYAK SAFETY MEASURES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 90B of General Laws, as appearing in the  
2 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the  
3 following new section, after section 13A,

4 Section 13B. All commercial and/or professional kayak  
5 instructors shall obtain and maintain the following:

- 6 (a) Basic First Aid training;
- 7 (b) CPR or a higher level of first responder qualification; and
- 8 (c) American Canoe Association certification or equivalent  
9 training.

10 All commercial and/or professional kayak instructors shall pro-  
11 vide training to each individual on the safety procedures appro-  
12 priate to the level of paddling difficulty. Instruction of novices  
13 shall include actual wet exit training, the so-called practice in  
14 escaping from a kayak while submerged in a controlled water set-  
15 ting, pool or otherwise, before said individuals are allowed to use  
16 a kayak in open waters.

17 No form of release, oral or written, shall be valid or otherwise  
18 effective so as to affect an instructor's responsibility to comply  
19 with this section. Any such release shall be null and void.